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THE
RAILWAY QUESTION.

THE
Report of the Committee on Transportation
OF THE
AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION,

With the Paper Read at the Boston Meeting,

May 21-25, 1887,

ON

"THE AGITATION FOR FEDERAL REGULATION OF RAILWAYS."

By EDMUND J. JAMES, Ph. D.,

Professor in the University of Pennsylvania.

AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION.

JULY, 1887.

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NOTE.—In addition to the papers printed in this number, a paper was read at the Boston meeting by Dr. E. R. A. Seligman, of Columbia College, on the long and short haul clause of the Interstate Commerce Act, and another by Simon Sterne, Esq., of New York, on Some Aspects of the Railroad Question in Europe, which have been printed elsewhere. The papers were followed by a discussion in which Professor Hadley, of Yale College, Mr. Sterne, Mr. Edward Atkinson and others, took an active part. The substance of their remarks will be found in the report of the proceedings of the association.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE
I. REPORT OF COMMITTEE.....	9
Importance of subject assigned the committee.....	11
Definition of field of investigation.....	14
Outline of topics to be considered.....	15
Professor Jenks's proposed work.....	15
II. PAPER ON AGITATION FOR FEDERAL REGULATION OF RAIL- WAYS.....	19
Energizing of federal authority by course of economic development.....	19
Primitive character of national economy a century ago..	21
Changes wrought by introduction of railways.....	22
Appearance of evils in railway system.....	24
Examples of abuses.....	25
Results of these evils and abuses.....	29
Powerlessness of the states to remedy them.....	30
Beginning of agitation for federal regulation.....	32
Report of June 9, 1868.....	33
Windom report of 1873.....	35
Comparison of the two reports.....	39
Cullom report of 1886.....	40
Indictment of our railway system in Cullom report.....	42
Cause of abuses.....	44
Discussion of Cullom bill—great majority finally voting in its favor.....	45
Constitutional objections.....	46
Character of the bill.....	47
Results to be expected from it.....	49
Growth in railway as compared with canal traffic.....	51
Supreme court on powers of the states in regard to inter- state commerce.....	52
Economical effects of waste of capital in American rail- road construction.....	56

	PAGE
Comparative superiority of American railway system..	57
Cheapness of transportation.....	58
Subsidies to railroad corporations.....	59
Need of accurate statistics in railroad matters.....	59
Rapidity of movement.....	59
Illinois Central Railroad land grants.....	60
Functions of canals in a system of transportation.....	61
German and French views.....	61
Canals as regulators of railroad rates.....	62
Provisions of interstate commerce law.....	64
Senators Morgan and Stanford on interstate commerce law.....	66

REPORT
OF THE
Committee on Transportation
OF THE
AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION.

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Members of the American Economic Association :

As the chairman of the committee which enjoys the honor of being the first to present a report on one of the topics for the investigation of which the Association was formed, I cannot refrain from congratulating you upon the success which has crowned our first year of effort. The occasion of our organization was unusually favorable. There has never been a time when there were so many important economic problems waiting for their solution ; or such ample facilities offered for their investigation ; or such widespread interest on the part of the public in all attempts to solve them. There is, moreover, an unusual willingness on the part of nearly everyone, who is in a position to do so, to assist in the furtherance of such objects as we have set before us in this society.

The plan of our organization includes among other things the appointment of a number of committees, to each of which shall be assigned some department of economic inquiry, with the idea that they shall present from time to time to the Association reports upon one or another of the various topics embraced within their respective fields. For the purpose of securing the widest practicable coöperation of all who are working at the same problems, the committees have been authorized to invite the assistance of workers from every direction, whether members of our Association or not.